programmes to cut short the delay in taking off the projects; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) After discussing the issue in various fora including the State Forest Minister's Conference held during February, 1992, it was decided to further decentralise and streamline examination of proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Accordingly, Forest (Conservation) Rules, 1981 have been suitably amended on 21.5.1992 and revised consolidated guidelines for examination of proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been issued on 25.10.1992. Revised consolidated guidelines interalia include delegation of powers to Regional Chief Conservator of Forests to finally decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. excluding proposals in respect of regularisation of encroachments and mining and initial examination of all proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 20 ha.

Funds Donated by Institutions under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

1659. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds have been donated by the A.S.U./Financial Institutions under the Ministry to any Foundation or Institution connected with late Indira Gandhi and Rajeev Gandhi during the past four years and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of donations made to any other body/voluntary institutions under the Ministry during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. ONGC donated a sum of Rs.1 lakh to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation during 1991-92. A sum of US Dollars 2,500 was also donated by ONGC to the US Chapter of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Washington in April, 1995.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meeting the Demand of Petroleum Products through Domestic Production

1660. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the year-wise percentage of the demand regarding Petrol and Petroleum products during the last three years which was met through indigenous production;

(b) what estimates have been reckoned for the year 2001;

(c) whether Government are taking any firm steps for assigning oil producing projects to private sector in order to increase the indigenous production; and

(d) what steps have been taken to preserve the petroleum products in order to meet the country's requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) The percentage of demand of petrol and petroleum products met through indigenous production during the last three years was as under:—

Year	Petrol(%)	Petroleum Products(%)
1992-93	103.2	85.5
1993-94	100.2	84.0
1994-95*	99.7	80.8

*Provisional

(b) The demand projections for the year 2001 have not yet been finalised.

(c) Measures taken by the Government to increase crude oil production include:—

(1) Development of new fields and additional development of existing fields.

(2) Implementation of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes and extending some of the EOR scheme from pilot scale to full scale field application.

(3) Implementation of specialised technologies such as Extended Reach Drilling. Horizontal and drain hole drilling.

(4) Offering small and medium sized fields for development by the private sector, on its own and through joint ventures with the national oil companies.

(d) Government have implemented a number of schemes for conservation of petroleum products. They include replacement of low efficient furnaces with higher efficient ones, use of better pumps to reduce leakage of petroleum products, improvement in gas flare management, use of efficient machineries, design and marketing of efficient LPG/Kerosene stoves, setting up of model garages in STUs, sponsoring of R&D projects, etc.

Conservation of Indian Biological Diversities

1661. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated action to formulate and enact a legislation for the conservation of Indian biological diversities including the issues related to the ownership of the resources that originated in India and access to such genetic resources; and

(b) if so, by when a Bill to that effect is likely to be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Government is taking measures to formulate a comprehensive legislation with regard to biodiversity. Following a series of inter-ministerial consultations and discussions with experts and NGOs the elements for the legislation have been identified. As several Central and State laws govern various aspects of biodiversity conservation, presently an exercise has been undertaken to examine the existing laws relevant to biodiversity. Consultations with sectoral Central Ministries, the State Governments and other relevant organisations would also be necessary.

America's stand on India's claim for Security Council seat

1662. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government has taken a position against India as a permanent member of UN Council as a result of its tilt towards Pakistan; and

(b) if so, whether Government will review its decision for an Indo-US Joint Defence Initiative?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB